uriant growth, and may not be obvious in wild plants. I did not notice it when collecting and observing them in 1984. In 1986 I had to sniff the wild plants to detect it, whereas half-grown wild plants that were transplanted to the greenhouse that year were, when full-grown, almost as odorous as I remembered the 1984 greenhouse-grown seedlings to be.

Mephitism may be an anti-herbivore adaptation in the Los Gatos population of *L. tenuis.* They often occur in clumps; some occur under *Adenostoma fasciculatum, Arctostaphylos* (*glandulosa*?), or *Baccharis pilularis* subsp. *consanguinea.* The shrubs have no surrounding bare zones unlike the situations described previously (Bartholomew, Science 170:1210–1212, 1970; Halligan, Bioscience 23:429–432, 1973). Evidence of grazing by mammals is present, but the lessingias and co-occurring annuals [including *Navarettia squarrosa*(?), "skunkweed"] show no evidence of being grazed. The lessingias, however, do not have an unpleasant taste (at least to me), and greenhouse plants are attacked by whiteflies. Mephitism has been reported in *Navarettia squarrosa* (see Abrams & Ferris, op. cit.) and I had noticed it in a Santa Cruz Co. population growing in a relatively mesic site. I have not observed it among local populations, however, but neither have I sniffed the plants. Perhaps mephitism, and other strong scents, might be found to be more widespread if it is looked for in greenhouse plants derived from dense populations of apparently ungrazed herbaceous species of dry habitats.

I appreciate the comments of reviewers Pinkava and Tanowitz, and have extended the discussion of mephitism.—John Mooring, Biology Department, Santa Clara Univ., Santa Clara, CA 95053. (Received 25 Jun 86; revision accepted 9 Oct 1986.)

## REVIEW

*Vascular Plants of Upper Bidwell Park, Chico, CA.* By Vernon H. Oswald. vi + 98 pp. The Herbarium, Department of Biological Sciences, California State University, Chico, Publication No. 3. 1986. $5.95 plus tax and mailing.

This book has an attractive sketch of *Polygonum bidwelliae* on its soft yellow cover. The content is formatted professionally and has appeal to anyone who wishes to deal with basic botany with the assistance of keys, glossary, map, and bibliography. The preface explains the three plant communities involved and has a synoptic geological presentation. The nomenclature is up-to-date and keys involve major plant groups, divisions, families, genera, species, and subspecific taxa. Although undoubtedly incomplete (as is any other new checklist), 748 species and subspecific taxa have been tabulated. About 30% of these are introduced and this is about 50% higher than on the county list.

Two thousand acres are included in the study area. Elevations extend from 260 feet to 1520 feet. Twelve plants are listed in various categories in the C.N.P.S. rare plant inventory. There is no mention of climatology and there are no illustrations or photographs. A short addenda and errata are enclosed.

Even for amateurs who have only a superficial knowledge of botany, this professionally presented text will be found more enjoyable, and certainly more educational, than a plant list keyed to the color of the flowers.—Walter Knight, Field Associate, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, CA 94118.